

AUG 03 2007

Serial No.: 10/079,027
Conf. No.: 6406

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Art Unit: 3673
Reply to July 10, 2007 Action**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed July 10, 2007 in the above-identified application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, careful reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 18, 27, and 28 have been amended to more particularly point out the invention. These amendments can be readily supported by at least Applicant's paragraphs 0025, 0027 and 0028 of U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0113375. Claims 33-34 and 36-38 have been cancelled without prejudice.

In the Office Action dated March 28, 2007, Examiner indicates that the Applicant's previous response filed on January 10, 2007 is non-responsive. In particular, Examiner indicates that the response is non-responsive "because applicant has claimed a vacuum environment because a vacuum seal must provide a seal in a vacuum process chamber or environment that was not previously claimed." Examiner indicates that "[claims] 1-34 and 36-38 are directed to a non-elected invention."

In a conversation between Mr. Vishal A. Patel, Examiner, and Mr. Changhoon Choi, a representative of the Applicant, on June 27, 2007, Examiner indicated that the response filed on January 10, 2007 is non-responsive as the feature added to claims is recited in a non-elected claim 35. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim 1 requires "the sealing portion being disposed on the shaft, being configured to maintain a vacuum seal about the shaft, and being configured to resist fluid flow between the sealing portion and the shaft," and a seal mount that is "configured to maintain the vacuum seal." Claim 27 requires a "sealing member being disposed on the shaft, being configured to maintain a vacuum seal about the shaft, and being configured to resist fluid flow between the sealing member and the shaft," and a flexible mounting collar "configured to maintain the vacuum seal".

Based on previous rejections, Applicant respectfully resubmits that Hubler (US 3,666,276) does not disclose, teach, or suggest a sealing portion or sealing member that resists fluid flow while maintaining a vacuum seal. In Hubler, the casing "encloses a neutral fluid adapted to leak to the outside in order to constitute a protective barrier" (col. 3, lines 36-38, emphasis added). The neutral fluid is "allowed to be exhausted to the atmosphere" and the moderate or limited leakage constitutes "a characteristic feature of this invention" in some

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embodiments of Hubler. (col. 2, lines 12-16, emphasis added). Hubler will, thus, afford "a moderate leakage" and "limited fluid flow between said casing and the surrounding atmosphere" occurs (Hubler abstract). While Hubler indicates that fluid tightness of the assembly may be tested by creating a vacuum in chamber P1 (col. 4, lines 39-41), this test will not maintain a vacuum because the casing is "adapted to leak" (col. 3, line 37, emphasis added). Rather, the Hubler device can still have "moderate leakage" (Hubler abstract). Applicant's device, by contrast, is "configured to maintain a vacuum seal about the shaft" and is "configured to resist fluid flow" between the sealing portion or sealing member and the shaft.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that any rejection is overcome because Hubler does not include a sealing portion or sealing member that will "resist fluid flow between the sealing portion and the shaft" and "maintain a vacuum seal about the shaft." Applicant also respectfully submits that the claims as amended are not directed to an unelected invention. The claims have been amended to follow the restriction requirements and references to the environment have been removed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the foregoing claim amendments and remarks all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-7 and 9-26 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 28-32 depend from claim 27 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. Early allowance is earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to deposit account No. 50-0896.

Respectfully submitted,
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